

**BOARD LETTER – SUMMARY SHEET
HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CLUSTER**

AGENDA REVIEW	09/24/14
BOARD MEETING	10/07/14
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT	All
DEPARTMENT	Mental Health
SUBJECT	Approval to 1) accept a grant award from, and enter into a grant agreement with, the American Psychological Association (APA) Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) to pursue accreditation for the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Correctional and Community Mental Health Psychology Internship Program and 2) perform an appropriation adjustment.
PROGRAM	Through this program, DMH will expand the number of accredited internship positions, promote quality training for psychologists, and attract and train high quality clinical psychology interns to provide critically needed intensive services, including mental health clinical services, case management, and aftercare planning for underserved populations in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.
DEADLINES	None
COST & FUNDING	The APA BEA grant award in the amount of \$20,000 has been allocated in its entirety. The Request for Appropriation Adjustment in the amount of \$20,000 increases Services and Supplies to fund the implementation of APA accreditation for the psychology internship program, fully funded by the APA BEA grant award. This is a one-time award and is not subject to renewal. There is no net County cost impact associated with these recommended actions.
PURPOSE OF REQUEST	Board approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to accept an APA BEA grant award totaling \$20,000, and execute the attached grant agreement for assistance in acquiring APA accreditation for the DMH Correctional and Community Mental Health Psychology Internship Program.
SUMMARY/ ISSUES (Briefly summarize program and potential issues or concerns. Identify changes, if any, to level of funding or staffing; how funding will be utilized and why best use; and prior accomplishments.)	<p>Currently, there is a significant imbalance between supply and demand for accredited psychology internships. Each year, due to the lack of accredited internship positions, hundreds of doctoral-level clinical psychology trainees are not placed. To address this, the APA has allocated up to \$3 million to fund the pursuit of accreditation to increase the number of APA-accredited internship programs and positions.</p> <p>According to the APA BEA, professional psychology is best served by a workforce trained in programs that meet the standards of the profession as demonstrated through a quality assurance mechanism recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Completion of an APA-accredited internship is also a requirement for hiring by federal agencies and is increasingly required for state licensure.</p> <p>Accreditation for this internship program has potential to strengthen the quality of the DMH workforce, attracting candidates who are committed to DMH's core values and excellence in the provision of critically needed intensive clinical services to underserved populations in the Los Angeles County metropolitan area.</p>
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